



February 12, 2026

Chair Marsh and members of the committee: my name is Sarah Lochner; I'm the Executive Director of the Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials – known as CLHO – representing local public health departments across the state.

CLHO and its members have a long history of supporting policies that protect people from secondhand smoke, including Oregon's indoor clean air act.

As such, we are here today in support of HB 4120 because it would extend protections to residents of apartment complexes or developed communities by allowing the landlord to declare the residences "smoke free" with 90 days' notice. The -1 amendment changes the 90 days to 180 days. The measure also specifies that they must designate an on-premises smoking area.

Lung cancer in individuals who have never smoked (LCINS) constitutes a growing health challenge, accounting for 10%–25% of lung cancer cases and ranking as the fifth leading cause of cancer-related death (worldwide). Lung cancer in non-smoking individuals arises from multiple nonsmoking-related risk factors, one of which is secondhand smoke exposure (the others are air pollution, radon exposure, genetic susceptibility, and aging).

Therefore, reducing secondhand smoke reduces the risk of lung cancer for these folks.

In addition, studies also show that if something is inconvenient, as humans, we are less likely to do it. If folks need to trek to a designated smoking area in the rain and cold, they will most likely reduce their habit.

That is what we, as public health, want to see. Reduced smoking and reduced exposure to second-hand smoke.

Please support HB 4120 with the -1 amendment because the health of everyone will be enhanced by this policy, and as an added bonus, it will help reduce the cost burden to the healthcare system over time.

Thank you.

Sources:

<https://pubs.rsna.org/doi/10.1148/radiol.251305>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK593511/>

